

Senator, I have your AM1687, you want to withdraw and substitute?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I would like to withdraw that and substitute 1933.

SPEAKER BAACK: Any objections? No objections, so ordered. Senator Coordsen. (Coordsen amendment appears on pages 2253-54 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. It's somewhat ironic, I think, to be following a general discussion on accountability that was held on the state auditor's office's attempt to add money for equipment with this particular amendment. AM1933 will reduce the appropriation to the Department of Social Services in three different programs, it would be Program 341, 347, 348, by a total of \$455,094 state and federal funds together. I think it would be appropriate at this time to talk a little bit about the history of the reason for this amendment. Several years ago, and by the way, these funds all have to do with money appropriated to fund a program that was brought about through the passage of LB 182 in 1989. At that time, during the...after 182 was introduced with a number of hours of work by members of the county courts and the juvenile courts to address a problem that existed in a dispute between LB...between the courts and the Department of Social Services, Department of Social Services, at that time, put a fiscal note on 182 of \$20 million to implement that particular program. The department had been successful, several years prior to that, in getting the state statutes changed to the extent that if their decision in how to handle, in the disposition of a juvenile case, wards of the state, that...and a juvenile court judge, or county court judge sitting in that function disagreed, that they could ignore the court order. Well, DSS was not successful in stopping the passage of 182, and, in fact, the juvenile court system has been given the added tool of a three-judge appeals panel to hear the cases where the court and the department do not agree as to what the disposition of a case, and the care of that juvenile should be. LB 182 was passed with a requirement that a report be made to the Legislature on an annual basis, and that as a result of that also was given an appropriation of \$500,000. I passed out this morning a copy, the first copy, the one that came last fall, of